Export of Iron-Ore by MMTC

†2737. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public sector company MMTC exports around four crore ton iron-ore every year;

(b) whether the MMTC exports at the rate of 44 dollar per ton, whereas iron-ore's cost in the open market is 54 dollar per ton;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, the actual position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir. The iron ore exports by MMTC during the last three years is as follows:-

(*Qty. in Million Tonnes*)

Year	Quantity
2003-04	10.51
2004-05	11.78
2005-06 (Provisional)	10.08

(b) to (d) The prices for Iron Ore supplies to Japanese Steel Mills and POSCO, South Korea, who are the long term buyers, are the bench-mark prices which are fixed every year and are applicable for supplies throughout the respective year. The bench-mark price for Iron Ore export for the current financial year 2006-07 for Lumps range from US$ 56.80 to US$ 60.02 per Dry Long Tonne and for Fines is US$ 46.57 per Dry Long Tonne. For export of Iron Ore to China, MMTC finalises the prices on a spot basis which fluctuate depending on demand from the Chinese steel industry.

Pending proposals for AEZs

2738. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.